

Remarks

Prior to this communication, claims 1 – 4, 6, 7, 12 – 15, 18 – 28, 32, 35 – 48, 51 – 54, 57 – 69, 72 – 75, 77 – 80, 84, 87 – 95, 97, 102, 103, 106 – 114, 128 – 130, 133 – 147, 150 – 158, and 220 – 227 are pending. Claims 1 – 4, 6, 7, 12 – 15, 18 – 28, 32, 35 – 48, 51 – 54, 57 – 69, 72 – 75, 77 – 80, 84, 87 – 95, 97, 102, 103, 106 – 114, 128 – 130, 133 – 147, 150 – 158, and 220 – 227 were rejected. By this amendment, claims 72 – 74, 77 – 80, 84, 87 – 95, 103, and 106 – 114 have been amended; claims 1 – 4, 6, 7, 12 – 15, 18 – 28, 32, 35 – 48, 51 – 54, 57 – 69, 128 – 130, 133 – 147, 150 – 158, and 220 – 227 have been cancelled; and claims 228 – 241 have been added. Examination and reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Page 2 of the Action indicates “no response or acknowledgement of the IDS deficiency has been received.” As such, “listing of references in the Search Report is not considered.”

Applicants respectfully submit herewith an IDS pursuant to 37. C.F.R. 1.97 (e) (2).

Consideration of the references cited in the IDS is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 7, 12 – 15, 18, 19, 27, 41, 42, 51 – 54, 57, 58, 66, 72 – 75, 77 – 79, 102, 103, 106, 107, 128 – 130, 133, 142, 146, 147, 150, 151, 220, and 227 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 09-047550, (“Ugawa”).

Claims 1, 7, 12 – 15, 18, 19, 27, 41, 42, 51 – 54, 57, 58, 66, 128 – 130, 133, 142, 146, 147, 150, 151, 220, and 227 have been cancelled.

Independent claim 72 has been amended, and is directed to “a gaming console for playing a base game,” the gaming console includes, among other things, “a display configured to display images of the base game,” and “a game controller configured to control the images to be displayed on the display, to play the base game wherein one or more random events are caused to be displayed on the display and, if a predefined winning event or combination of events results, the machine awards a prize, to detect a triggering event, to generate on the display an appearance of a character having an association with first and second games, wherein the first game is different from the second game, and wherein the first game is different from the base game, wherein the triggering event is random and related to a bet placed.”

Applicants respectfully submit that Ugawa does not anticipate claim 72. Particularly, Ugawa does not anticipate with respect to “a game controller configured ... to play the base game ... , to detect a triggering event, to generate on the display an appearance of a character having an association with first and second games, ... wherein the triggering event is random and related to a bet placed.”

Rather, Ugawa discloses that one or more superimposed characters are displayed for “announcing the decision of ready-for-winning state or the jackpot when it is shown in a pictorial pattern under the routine.” (Abstract of Ugawa.) That is, the superimposed characters for announcements only. Therefore, Ugawa does not anticipate with respect to “a game controller configured ... to play the base game ... , to detect a triggering event, to generate on the display an appearance of a character having an association with first and second games, ... wherein the triggering event is random and related to a bet placed,” as recited in claim 72.

Independent claim 72 and claims 73 – 75, 77 – 79, 102, 103, 106, 107 depend from claim 72 therefore include patentable subject matter, and are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 2 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ugawa in view of Official Notice.

Claims 2 and 43 have been cancelled. As such the rejections are deemed moot.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 20 – 26, 28, 32, 35 – 40, 44 – 48, 59 – 65, 67 – 69, 80, 84, 87 – 95, 97, 108, 114, 135 – 141, 143 – 145, 152 – 158, and 221 – 226 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Ugawa in view of Official Notice.

Claims 3, 4, 5, 20 – 26, 28, 32, 35 – 40, 44 – 48, 59 – 65, 67 – 69, 135 – 141, 143 – 145, 152 – 158, and 221 – 226 have been cancelled. As such, the rejections are deemed moot.

Claims 80, 84, 87 – 95, 97, 108, and 114 depend from claim 72. As discussed above with respect to claim 72, Ugawa does not anticipate all elements of claim 72. Therefore, claim 72 is patentable in view of Ugawa, and are allowable.

Newly Added Claims

New claims 228 – 241 have been added.

New independent claim 228 is directed to a “gaming machine” that includes, among other things, “a display configured to display images of a base game,” and “a game controller configured to detect an occurrence of a trigger event, to associate each of a first and second games with a value, the first game being different from the second game and the base game, and to randomly and selective at least one of the first and second games to be played with the machine through the display based on a probability value, subsequent to the detection of the occurrence of the trigger event.”

New independent claim 235 is directed to a “method for use with a gaming machine playing a base game” that includes “detecting an occurrence of a trigger event,” “associating each of a plurality of second unique games with a probability value to be played with the machine,” and “subsequent to the detection of the occurrence of the trigger event, randomly selecting at least one of the plurality of unique second games based on the probability value.”

Applicants respectfully submit that support of these claims can be found in the Specification. For example, Applicants have discussed on pages 26 and 27 of the Specification

an triggering event that randomly initiates a plurality of secondary games. For example, Applicants have discussed

The functionality of the Mr. Cashman character will be similar to standard game features but with two important differences. Firstly the fact that the character is common between **completely different games**, secondly the fact that the trigger for the Mr. Cashman feature is in most, if not all cases, completely independent of the base game combinations. That is, the Mr. Cashman **trigger is random** and weighted by the desired hit rate of the feature. It is dependent upon the player's bet, and may or may not be dependent upon the size or type of the player's bet. For example, if a specific Mr. Cashman feature is required to initiate on average every 200 games played, then for every time the player initiates a game by pressing a bet button a random number will be selected in the range 1 to 200. If the number 1 is selected then the Mr. Cashman feature will be triggered. In some cases the chance of getting the Mr. Cashman feature will be dependent upon the number of lines played. For example, if for a single line bet the Mr. Cashman feature is required on average every 1000 games, then ideally the range from which random numbers are selected would be 1 to (1000/lines played). Realistically, the way this would be implemented in software will be where a random number in the range 1 to 1000 will be selected, and if the resulting number that was selected is in the range of from 1 to the number of lines played then the Mr. Cashman feature will be triggered.

(Lines 3 – 23, page 26, Specification, emphasis added.)

New claims 228 – 241 are not anticipated by Ugawa for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 72.

No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining pending claims are allowable. In the event that the Examiner believes a telephone interview with the undersigned Applicants' Representative would be helpful in advancing prosecution of this patent application, the undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

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